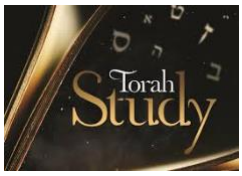
# 20170128 EXODUS 13:17-17:16 "God's Perfect Provision Along the Journey"




**"God's Perfect Provision Along the Journey" Series: "Lessons for Living: A Christian Walk through the Torah" by Faber McMullen, Union Grove Baptist Church ©2017-2018**

**BESHALACH** **TORAH** : EXODUS 13:17-17:16

I am concerned that many in our congregation are not familiar with the basic Bible stories of the Old Testament. I am not condemning any person in here, but many of you did not have the privilege to grow up with sound teaching. Many of you never received consistent instruction in Sunday School to learn the treasures that are present in the Bible. This morning we are going to look at the greatest miracles in the Bible outside of the resurrection of Jesus Himself from the dead. We are going to see God's people miraculously set free from 400 years of slavery down in Egypt, and then we will witness His miraculous provision for them along the journey He assigned for them.

As they journey we will see hardship after hardship that they encountered on their way to the "Promised Land" that God had promised them. There are so many Biblical truths to be learned in watching this journey. I could teach a year on this Torah portion alone. Don't cheat yourself by not taking the time to read it in its entirety. This portion is full of spiritual truth. **P1:** You see for us, slavery in Egypt is a metaphor for when we were lost in our sinful condition. We were born not knowing God and not knowing anything about the saving power of Jesus. As we came to faith, we were like the Jewish people who came to realize that they were God's chosen people, and that He had a destiny and a purpose for them. **P2:** Our "promised land" is heaven itself and eternity in the loving presence of God. But while we travel on this earth, we are each on a spiritual journey. Our paths are filled with testing and trials, but God promises to provide everything we need to live out our lives faithfully before our final destination with Him in heaven.

Please stand with me as we read from our Torah Portion this morning:

> 15 And the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry to Me? Tell the children of Israel to go
> forward. 16 But lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it. And
> the children of Israel shall go on dry *ground* through the midst of the sea. 17 And I indeed
> will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will gain honor
> over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen. 18 Then the Egyptians
> shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have gained honor for Myself over Pharaoh, his
> chariots, and his horsemen."[1]

In review let me quickly summarize what has gone on historically to get us where we are this morning.

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[1] *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ex 14:15–18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abraham➔ | Isaac ➔ | Jacob ➔ | 12 Sons ➔ | Joseph (11th) ➔ | Pharoah/Moses |
| 2000 BC | 1900 BC | 1860 BC | 1800 BC | | 1400 BC |

This is an approximation as there is some argument that it can all be shifted to the right, meaning the Exodus might have occurred around 1200 BC instead. It doesn't matter, but this helps in understanding where we are in the time line as we read these events.

Let's review for a minute. The chart shows the Israelites were in Egypt for about 400 years. Remember that Abraham was from Chaldea. He was not really a "Jew". He was a Semitic person that lived up in what is today modern day Iraq. God spoke into His heart, and told him to leave his father's house and to go on a journey to a place he had never been before. God did not tell Abraham where he was going or exactly how to get there. The only thing Abraham knew is that God would be there when Abraham reached the Promised Land. We read together the fascinating account of how one starry night, God met with Abraham. Outside of that tent in the desert, Abraham cut up animals as a sacrifice and he put them in two rows. In covenant mechanics the purpose was to bind two persons together who were entering into a relationship. They would walk between the severed animals together signifying that the same thing should happen to the party who might break the covenant. The passage in Genesis chapter 15 shows us that Abraham never performed anything. God put him in a deep sleep and then God alone passed through the severed animals. God spoke to Abraham in his dream. and God made 6 promises to him that we refer to as the Abrahamic Covenant. **P3:** This covenant experience was a picture of grace as God poured out His favor on Abraham who did nothing to deserve it. We learned that Abraham's response was belief, and God "accounted that faith and belief to Abraham for righteousness" (Gen 15:6).

Abraham's son then came. We missed the Torah portion where an angel of the Lord came to Abraham and his wife Sarah and promised that they would have a baby and they both laughed at the thought of it.[2] Yet Isaac was born about a year later, and they named him Isaac, meaning "laughter". Isaac had a son Jacob unto whom God also spoke in dreams. Once again, God reaffirmed his covenant promises to the Jewish people. Jacob had 12 sons and his eleventh son was Joseph (meaning "increase"). The story is long, but Joseph was the apple of his father's eye and Jacob showed favoritism to Joseph, and he made him a beautiful coat of many colors. When his 10 older brothers saw that coat, they were eaten up with jealousy and they took Joseph and threw him into a dry water well. They killed an animal and put blood on the coat. They convinced their father Jacob that his precious Joseph had been torn limb from limb by a wild animal. Meanwhile God moved in the life of Joseph.

Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt by his wicked brothers and through many trials and troubles we saw Joseph rise to the second most powerful position in Egypt. He was essentially the prime minister to Pharaoh, the king. In time a great famine came upon the earth and Jacob sent his 10 older sons down to Egypt to buy grain. Joseph was in charge of the storehouses that sold the grain. We learned about compassion and forgiveness

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[2] Genesis 17:17 and 18:12

when we saw Joseph forgive his undeserving brothers. He invited them to come to Egypt; and so Jacob and his sons moved down to Egypt. The Bible tells us that when Jacob's family came they numbered 70 people.

Jacob's family lived in Egypt for a little over 400 years and eventually the time came when the kings in Egypt no longer remembered the great things that Joseph had done for the Egyptians. The Egyptians grew fearful of the Israelites and ended up enslaving them. In time, Moses was born and a few weeks ago we read how God revealed Himself to Moses in a burning bush. The bush caught on fire but it was not consumed. **P4:** There in

the desert God revealed ***HaShem*** the holiest of names. We incorrectly translate ***HaShem*** as "I AM" in English. But in the name, God was telling His people that He always was. He always will be, and that He would be whatever His people needed at any time in the future. In our last Torah study we saw God strike the Egyptians with10 plagues. These plagues countered the gods most sacred to the Egyptians. Each time Moses told Pharaoh that God said, "Let my people go", Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he refused. Then on the 10th and last plague, God sent the death angel over each house in Egypt. The firstborn of all humans and animals was killed on that night. The night before the death angel passed over, Moses commanded the people to slay an innocent lamb and to spread the blood on the doorposts of the house. The people did so and the death angel passed over those houses that were protected by the blood of the lamb. Pharaoh finally acquiesced and let the people go. The celebration of that event is called "Passover" to this day.

They packed up, and the Bible tells us that 603,550 men over the age of twenty with their families left Egypt.[3] In the suffering of Egypt, God had taken a family of seventy and turned them into a nation of millions. **P5:** We were reminded that in the furnace of affliction God takes our iron and in place of it He gives us silver, and in place of our brass He gives us gold.[4] Days after the people left Egypt they found themselves trapped against the sea. Pharaoh decided that he had made a mistake and he set out to once again enslave the Israelites. They had no where to turn. They didn't know what to do. They didn't have a clue how they would be delivered, and then....

15 And the LORD said to Moses,
"Why do you cry to Me? Tell
the children of Israel to go
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the sea and divide it. And the
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harden the hearts of the
Egyptians, and they shall
follow them. So I will gain

[3] Exodus 12:37-38
[4] Isaiah 60:17

honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen.

Let's pick up and see what happens. I want everyone in this congregation today or reading this sermon to take out your Bible and read this following passage:

**READ Exodus 14:19-31**

Chapter 15 of the Torah portion then gives us actual words that were written by Moses and his older sister Miriam. We sang this song today in our time of worship in song. This song can be a prayer that you say or sing before the Lord in your own personal time of worship. It beautifully speaks of the deliverance of God in the life of the believer.

And then coming out of their first crisis at the end of chapter 15 the people grew thirsty and they had their **second test**. It is amazing to me that they had just seen the waters of the red sea pile up like a wall on the left and the right and they walked through on dry ground, yet they doubted that God could take care of something as basic as their thirst. Listen as I read from Chapter 15.

[22] So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. [23] Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they *were* bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. [24] And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" [25] So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made sweet.

Chapter 16 then tells us of a **third test.** The Israelites grew hungry and again forgetting about the deliverance through the Red Sea, and forgetting about the provision of water, they complained in the wilderness and God miraculously "rained bread from heaven" as he provided them a substance that they called ***Manna*** (meaning "What is it?") Let's read a bit about ***Manna.***

**16** [3] And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat *and* when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." [4] Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. [5] And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

God told the people through Moses to only gather what they needed each day. Do you think they obeyed? Of course not. Some gathered more than they needed to try to "hold some back" and "store it up"... why? **P6:** They disobeyed God because they didn't believe that God would provide them tomorrow's need. This is a reminder to each of us that the Lord is faithful and will provide us what we need in our moment of our need. It may not be in the form that we expect, but it is provided nevertheless the same. He is faithful in His provision for the believer. Look what happened when they tried to store God's blessings.

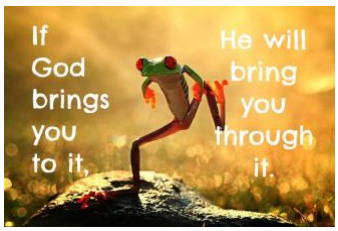
” 20,,, they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it [manna] until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. 21 So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.[5]

Guys, you should be seeing a pattern here. You are asking, "Pastor Faber, how in the world is this old story relevant to me?" Well I'll tell you. God took each of you in this room from a life of sin and self and He covered you with the blood of Jesus. Some of you have uttered the words, and maybe had a real desire to follow Jesus, but you've compromised yourselves. You've said, "Lord, you can have all of me, but not this little part of me." You've been washed of your sins, but you go on sinning. You think you can hold out a corner of your life from God.

You move from crisis to crisis in your life just like the Israelites did when they came up against the Red Sea. With enemies and problems all around you, God has opened the Red Sea in front of you again and again, and you run through the Red Sea just to get to the other side and to once again focus on yourself and allow yourself to be influenced by the world, the flesh, and the devil. **P7:** God wants to set you free, but like a dog, some of you return again and again to your own vomit. (Proverbs 26:11)

Just like God had a plan and a path for Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, He has both for you. How can you know that path? It is by Faith and by Praying with Passion that you can listen to God as He communicates to you. As we are learning on Wednesday nights, it only takes a tiny bit of faith to get back on the path that God has for you. Jesus called it faith the size of a mustard seed. (Matthew 17:20)

Your journey may be like Joseph's. You may experience betrayal and hardship, but you will have a chance to forgive and give those hurts over to God. You cannot live victoriously if you pull out those hurts and comfort yourself with them. It is time to get on to the Promised Land. Like the Israelites you may experience hunger, thirst, and need in many different ways, but are you willing to believe that God promises to meet your every need? (Philippians 4:19 "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.")




**P8:** I heard it once said, "If God will bring you to it, God will bring you through it." I think a logical approach to both understanding our journey and getting through it successfully is: 1) Faith - Believing God is Who He says He is and that He will do what He says He will do.
2) Prayer - As Judge McCaig says in our Praying with Passion Seminar, it's about "Getting real with God." This is you communicating with Him, and Him communicating with you through: a) The Bible b) The Holy Spirit, and c) Through pastors, teachers, authors, and writers who give you insight into understanding and applying God's Word to your journey and as you pass through the tests and trials of life. Can you decide today to give your journey completely to Him? - Let us Pray

Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at

[5] *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ex 16:18–21). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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